

REMARKS

Amendments

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 8 and 19 without prejudice. Furthermore, Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out what Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the invention as claimed uses a transaction device to not reveal the user's identity and authorize an intelligent agent to purchase a product or service. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Rejections

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-24

Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Cater (U.S. Pat. No. 5,926,798) in view of Tryllian ("tryllian Mobile Agents: Going beyond the Web"). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination does not teach each and every element of the invention as claimed in claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-24.

Carter discloses a system of intelligent agents that make purchases and reservations for a customer based on the prices and business policies of the online providers. The agents gather a group of goods and services available from the online providers that meet the customer's criteria, including desired business policies. Then an ordered list of providers is established based on the least restrictive cancellation policy. Finally the agents make the purchases in the order established.

Tryllian discloses a system of intelligent agents that can act as business online representatives, shopping agents and remote management agents. The agents build a customer profile and seek other agents with similar profiles. The agents then exchange their information, which is subsequently returned to the customers. Furthermore, the agents can make purchases on behalf of the customer. The agents guard information privacy by only disclosing private information with the owner's consent.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Carter and Tryllian does not support a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the combination does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Applicant's invention as claimed.

Specifically, neither Carter nor Tryllian teach or suggest the claimed element of using a transaction device to not reveal the party's identity and authorize an intelligent agent to anonymously purchase a product or service as claimed in claims 6, 13 and 24. The Examiner states Carter does not teach or suggest using a transaction device to authorize an intelligent agent to purchase a product or service. Furthermore, Tryllian discloses concealing a party's identity based on the lack of consent by the party, not based on a transaction device that does not reveal the identity as claimed. Therefore, Tryllian cannot teach the claimed element of using a transaction device to conceal a party's identity and authorize an intelligent agent to purchase a product or service. Thus, the combination cannot be properly interpreted to disclose the claimed element and cannot render obvious Applicant's invention as claimed in independent claims 6, 13 and 24 and the claims depending from them (2-5, 7, 9-12, and 20-23). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the currently pending claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination.

SUMMARY

Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 20-24 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Sue Holloway at (408) 720-8300.

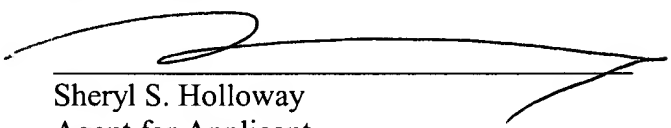
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
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